



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

"He must increase, I must decrease" (Jn 3:30)



18th February 2024
1st Sunday of Lent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

Lenten Programme

Way of the Cross & Mass:

First Friday at 3.30pm,
followed by Anointing
Mass at 4.00pm

Wednesdays & Fridays:

6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm



MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm

Sunday - 7.30am, 9.15am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday: Morning prayer at 8.15am

followed by the Mass at 8.30am

Saturdays & Public holidays - 9.00am

Healing Mass

First Friday of the month during Mass at 4.00pm

Nursing Home Masses:

Hillview House—3rd Thurs of the month 10.30am

Peninsula Village—4th Thurs of the month 10.00am

BlueWave—2nd Fri of the month 9.30am

Reconciliation/Confession

Friday—9.00am

First Friday of the month - 3.30pm

Saturday - 9.30am and 4.30pm

Sunday - 7.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday evenings from 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon—Fri - 8.30am—3.00pm

Divine Will Cenacle

Thursdays - 9.15am -10.45am

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Marian Bowyer - 0432 882 776

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest

Fr. Alex Peter M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into 'the wilderness' and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter when we renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The readings from Genesis and 1 Peter evoke the destructive yet life-giving waters of the great flood of old. They invite us to reflect on our baptism as a participation in God's covenant with all of creation, with 'every living creature of every kind.' The reading from 1 Peter reminds us of God's will to 'save' and of God's triumph over the forces that oppose God's ways of being in the world.

The four verses that make up today's gospel present a little drama that is played out in several 'worlds': the celestial, the human, the animal and the 'wilderness' worlds. Jesus is, as usual, the main character. The Spirit, Satan, God and God's angels, members of God's heavenly court, represent the celestial world. The 'wild beasts' interact with the 'angels' in the wilderness. Numbers feature symbolically, as do settings and characters.

God's Spirit has featured in the previous scene: Jesus is the chosen one of God on whom God's Spirit rests, the one sent to be a light to the peoples. Now the Spirit impels Jesus into the wilderness, the place of beginnings for Israel. Satan, a member of God's heavenly court, tests (a better translation of the Greek than 'tempts') him. Jesus is tested for 40 days, just as the people of Israel were tested during their 40-year ordeal in the wilderness. Jesus passes the test that Israel failed. He is 'with the wild beasts.' This evokes Isaiah's prophecy of a time when God would reign, a time of reconciliation, of trust, of harmony and peace: 'The wolf shall lie down with the lamb...' (Isa 11:6-9). Jesus is with the wild beasts, but is not devoured, because God looks after him. He reconciles the most seemingly irreconcilable elements.

This little gospel scene provides a microcosm of the ministry of Jesus, and of his struggle to overcome the opposing forces that threaten the success of his mission. God's power breaks through, Jesus announces the 'time' of God's reign. This is not a matter of clock time (chronos) but of God's time (kairos), the time to turn our lives in God's direction. The tense of the verb is continuous: the invitation is to continually 'think beyond' and turn our lives towards God. Lent helps us to focus on that invitation. https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/reflection-on-the-readings-for-the-first-sunday-in-lent-year-b/

We, The Woy Woy Catholic Parish acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Parish News:

Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates

First Holy Communion:

Information Night: 19th February at 7.00pm

Presentation Masses for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 24th February at 5.00pm

Sunday, 25th February at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

Lesson 1: Week of 26th February

Lesson 2: Week of 4th March

Lesson 3: Week of 11th March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Fri, 15th March at 4.00pm in the Church

Lesson 4: Week of 18th March

First Communion: Sunday, 7th April at 11.00am and Sunday, 14th April at 11.00am

Confirmation: Sunday, 30th June at 11.00am

Lenten Programme 2024

Men's group: There will be a Men's Lenten group meeting each Monday at 7.00pm in the Leo Mahon Room.

Lenten Retreat/Reflection: On Saturday, 16th March following 9.00am Mass, there will be a day of Retreat/Reflection. The day will commence with Adoration and then centre upon individual reflection and prayer. A visiting priest from Sydney will be present to guide us through the day. Lunch will be available and the afternoon will conclude with 5.00pm Mass. Please register your name on the list in the Gathering Area for catering purposes.

"A Resurrected Life" - A Lenten Daily Reflection booklet is now available from the Piety Stall for a cost of \$10.

Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection except on the 1st Friday, 1st March, when Way of the Cross will be at 3.30pm followed by the Eucharist and reflection.



Baptism: We welcome Kaliyah and Nathan O'Brien who will be Baptised this weekend.

Cleaners for 23rd February: Maria Wickens, Tom French, Brian Nairn, Andrew Hopkins.

Readers for 24th & 25th February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Wendy Whiteman & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan & Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Michael Dixon

Sunday 5.00pm—Peter Smith & Kris Aitken

Servers for 24th & 25th February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Jose Torres

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

Safeguarding Team: Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.

St John the Baptist School: St John the Baptist School Open Days: Thursday, 21st March—7.00pm Enrolment Info Evening & Friday, 22nd March—9.30am School Tours. For further details contact 02 7256 2128 or sjbwddb.catholic.edu.au.

El Shaddai : 17th Feb — 12.00pm to 4.00pm—rehearsal for

the choir at the Walter Baker Hall. 24th February —12.00pm to 4.00pm—prayer meeting at the Walter Baker Hall. 26th Anniversary celebration on Mar 2nd. Mass at 12pm followed by lunch and prayers.

World Day of Prayer: A World Day of Prayer service is to be held here at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy on Friday, 1st March. The service commences at 10.30am and is followed by refreshments in the Leo Mahon room. Everyone is welcome. World Day of Prayer is a World-wide movement of Christian Women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. It is a movement initiated and carried out in more than 170 countries and regions.

Observance of Lent according to St Francis de Sales:

St Francis de Sales, a Doctor of the Church and a prominent figure in the Counter-Reformation, wrote extensively on spiritual matters, including the observance of Lent.

Interior Conversion: St Francis de Sales emphasises the importance of Lent as a time for interior conversion. He encourages believers to use this period for self-examination, repentance, and drawing closer to God. Lent is not merely about external acts of penance but primarily about the transformation of the heart.

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving: Like many other Christian theologians, St Francis de Sales emphasises the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He sees these practices as essential for spiritual growth and renewal. Through prayer, believers deepen their relationship with God; through fasting, they discipline their bodies and detach themselves from worldly pleasures; through almsgiving, they show love and compassion towards others.

Moderation and Balance: St Francis de Sales warns against excessive austerity during Lent. While fasting and penance are important, they should be practiced with moderation and balance. He advises against overly harsh disciplines that may harm one's health or lead to spiritual pride. Instead, he recommends choosing penances that are suited to one's state in life and capacity.

Interior Dispositions: St Francis de Sales emphasises the importance of cultivating interior dispositions during Lent, such as humility, patience, and charity. He encourages believers to focus not only on external observances but also on the attitudes and virtues of the heart. Lent provides an opportunity for self-denial and growth in virtue.

Sacramental Life: St Francis de Sales emphasizes the importance of the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), during Lent. He encourages believers to make a good confession as part of their preparation for Easter. Confession allows for the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of grace, enabling believers to approach Easter with a clean heart.

Spiritual Reading and Reflection: St Francis de Sales recommends engaging in spiritual reading and reflection during Lent. He encourages believers to meditate on the life of Christ, especially his passion and death, as well as on the teachings of Scripture and the writings of the saints. Spiritual reading nourishes the soul and helps deepen one's spiritual life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Gen 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me, for you are God my saviour.

R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and the love you have shown of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Reading 2: 1 Pet 3:18-22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Gospel: Mk 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."



First Sunday of Lent
17th & 18th February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Keep us in your Prayers—pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Patricia Molloy, Elizabeth Willis

Anniversary: Mary Catania, Fatima Fawzy, Bill Finlayson, Sid Flakelar, Maria Garufo, Sam Grima

Remembrance: Joyce Fotheringham, Charlie Grima, Sara Salim

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfgram, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Jones, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Pat Savage, John Mitchell, Donna Vella, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Alchin, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, James Matthews, Doreen Arahill, Theresa Mitchell, Anita Servi, Jean Pierre, Michael Tannous, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Lola De Souza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilar, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Roger Lambert, Ron Manning, Ken Dixon, Maria Lourenco, Doris Coleman, Alice Lynn, Dianne Smyth, Gail Smith, Roy Cutrone, Wendy Cohen, Bill Hunt, Alan Ball, Betty McDermott, Marie Sourini, David Pragasam, Vicki Pirie, Beau Burt, Joel Lloyd, Belinda Cochrane, Ken Stewart, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark, Helen Tiltins, Shirley Brinkworth, Iris Drewett, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Van Mitchell, Chris Burt, Brian Searle, Sean McDermott, Gemma Tracey



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

1st collection: goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests

2nd Collection: Funds the operational management of the Parish

You can also donate via Bpoint, which will take you to our Website for secure online payments. <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/woywoyparish>

Name: St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy

BSB: 062 784 Account no: 10000 1742

Thank you for your generous contribution.

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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